



the ancient and unique town wells of clitheroe

240603 Meeting re Town Wells Conservation Campaign Revival

Venue 5.00pm New Inn Parson Lane Clitheroe

Attending: Shirley Penman, Andy Bowes, Steve Ragnell, Steve Burke

Draft Matters for Discussion

1 AB's Book 'Reflections on the Water'

- 1.1 Assistance to AB with Publication Launch ?
- 1.2 Restrictions on AB in referring to ROTW in any relaunched campaign
- 1.3 Tie in with 2025 'Heritage Open Days' 6-15th Sept? This year's Theme is '*Creativity Unwrapped*'

2 The principle and reasons for relaunching a 'Stand-alone' CTWCC: Discussion – Yes or No?

3 Draft Strategy - if yes to 2 above.

3.1 Review of main obstacles encountered previously, including

- 3.1.1** Varied and differing agendas of the various organisations participating
- 3.1.2** Absence of Title Deeds for Heald (*correct spelling ???*) and St. Mary's Wells
- 3.1.3** Reluctance of RVBC to commit time or expense for submitting further applications to the Land Registry
- 3.1.4** RVBC unsupported claim that to apply for Registration of Titles would be 'deceitful, unlawful and illegal'. (NB The final position of the Council and the OCO was that 'no further information was held' to support this claim.)
- 3.1.5** Lack of funds, or interest, to commence active investigations, conservation and Interpretation and the means to acquire these for Stock Well which they now have Full Title for.

3.2 Approach to overcoming obstacles

- 3.2.1 Re. 3.1.1:** A revived Clitheroe Town Wells Conservation Campaign with new '*Mission Statement/Constitution*' with the **single objective** of 'securing a '*meaningful and lasting future for all three town wells the better interpretation and public awareness of their significance*'

3.2.2 Re. 3.1.2: Obtain further Legal and Academic advice on the costs, legality and procedure for RVBC – or others – to make applications to The Land Registry (TLR) for either **Full Possession** (as obtained for Stock Well (the preferred approach). Failing this, to make applications for **Title by Prescription or Adverse Possession** in this order of Preference.

3.2.3 Re. 3.1.3: A: Liaise further with Clitheroe Town Council, following on from SP & SP's meeting with CTC in March 2023 and their interest 'in principle' to further involvement.

Re. 3.1.3: B: Offer to RVBC to use Stock Well as a 'Pilot Scheme' for all three. This in the same way as the Pinnacle Project was managed – to RVBC's and the Community's benefit. This on the understanding that they would make applications for Heald Well & St Mary's Wells - as described above - to TLR. Once Titles obtained - if RVBC reluctant to be involved further – a proposal for CTWCC and/or CTC manage a Phased Conservation Project, similar to that carried out by CCS on the castle Gardens Houses of Parliament Pinnacle. This would be at little or no cost to RVBC.

3.2.4 Re.3.1.4: RVBC objection to this to be potentially countered by further research into the legality or otherwise of the claim of '*deceitful, unlawful and illegal*'. This has already commenced by reaching out to UCLan (previously very committed to provide 'hands on assistance') and Manchester University's History Dept. Some initial responses already received.

3.2.5 Re.3.1.5: Once Title Deeds obtained Grants can be applied for.

3.3 Stock Well – subject to RVBC participation!

3.3.1 Grant Application to Heritage Lottery Fund and any other local, regional or national funding agencies to finance the employment of a professional team of consultants to manage the pilot scheme @ Stock Well

3.3.2 Dig Ventures (or similar) Dig Ventures is a social enterprise organising crowdfunded archaeological excavation experiences. It is registered with the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists and is a ClfA Accredited Field School.

3.3.3 Project Tenders for investigation works, Scheme Proposals, Consolidation/ Conservation works comprehensive interpretation of site investigation and historic significance

3.4 Pre-LR Registration Wider Community involvement in tandem with Stock Well Project

3.4.1 University of Central Lancashire (UCLan) remain interested in participating in this project. Potential assistance from:

Chris O'Flaherty Course Leader, School of Engineering and Computing specialising in building conservation and adaptation. Previous assistance included Detailed Physical 2 & 3D Surveys.

Professor Duncan Sayer, Professor, School of Law and Policing and a leading expert in historical archaeology. Advice on applications for Heritage Sites without Titles

3.4.2 Manchester University, Professor David Mathews Centre for Medieval and Early Modern Studies. Requested assistance with advice on applications for Registration of Heritage Sites without Titles. Response awaited

3.4.3 Application to LR to register Heald Well & Stock Well supported by existing evidence of historic judicial and Maintenance responsibility of RVBC and its municipal forebears assisted by additional Legal & Academic advice.

3.5 Post Registration of Heald Well (& Stock Well): Repeat process as undertaken @ Stock well on a phased basis, Heald Well then St Mary's Well

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TBC

SB: 2nd June 2024